

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

25X1

SUBJECT 1. New-Type Gas Masks of Khaskovo
Military Units
2. Miscellaneous Civilian Defense
Information from Khaskovo Area

DATE DISTR.

30 April 1953

NO. OF PAGES

REQUIREMENT NO.

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE ACQUIRED

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25X1 New-Type Gas Masks of Khaskovo Units

1. In 1951, the old-type Bulgarian Army gas masks were collected from units in the Khaskovo area and a new type mask, believed to be of Soviet make, was issued. The new gas mask has the following characteristics:
 - a. It covers the entire face, leaving only the ears exposed; the interior of the mask is of rubber-lined material; the mask has 8-centimeter goggles made of dull-colored mica and set at an angle so as to leave space for the nose;
 - b. ~~Air hose~~ air hose is attached approximately two centimeters below the goggles, over the nose and mouth cavity, which is approximately eight centimeters in diameter; the air hose is approximately 60 centimeters in length and is attached to an oxygen canister which is cylindrical in shape and made of smooth metal; the canister is approximately 25 centimeters in height and 12-15 centimeters in diameter and hooks on to the right side of the wearer's belt; informant did not know if the hose was attached to the top or to the side of the canister;

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(Note: Washington Distribution Indicated by "X"; Field Distribution by "#")

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- c. A rubber band approximately 1.5 to two centimeters in width is attached to the edge of the gas mask thus holding it in place when worn [redacted]

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- d. The entire gas mask is dull dark green in color.

2. Every member of Podelenie 55-430, Khaskovo, is equipped with the new-type gas mask. [redacted] the entire Khaskovo garrison was equipped with the same type mask. The soldiers attached to Podelenie 55-430 have gas mask drill two or three times per week. These drills are held outside the city.

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3. [redacted]

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Civilian Defense Training in Khaskovo

4. As of January 1953, courses in PVKHO (Protivovuzdushna i Khimichna Otbrana; Antiaircraft and Chemical Defense) had been given on a wide scale in Khaskovo, particularly to the tobacco workers. Communist Party members as well as non-party members with a good political record were invited to attend the courses, and were told that the character of the courses and information obtained therein were classified Top Secret.
5. A certain number of the trainees attending these courses were appointed section leaders and assigned the responsibility of leading non-initiated citizens and training them in PVKHO, in case of an alert. [redacted] there were approximately 50 trainees of both sexes at each of the 10 Khaskovo tobacco warehouses.
6. These PVKHO courses were started in the Spring of 1952 and have been greatly accelerated since that time. From early Spring to June 1952, the students were given theoretical instruction and practical problems every day from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. From July to September 1952, during the slack season at the Khaskovo tobacco warehouses, classes were held twice a day from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. An attendance check is made at these courses and any student who is absent without sufficient cause is dropped from the course.
7. The students have been taught how to neutralize unexploded bombs and how to work while wearing gas masks. There is no indication that gas masks have been distributed to the civilian population of Khaskovo.
8. During the winter of 1951-52, a notice was published in Khaskovo asking every citizen to obtain approximately half a ton of sand, a barrel of water, an ax, a shovel, and a pick and to place these items in his yard or home as soon as possible. [redacted] everyone in Khaskovo has complied with this notice. The military establishments of the Khaskovo garrison have also placed the items mentioned above outside each of their buildings.

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Evacuation Exercises in Khaskovo

9. During 1952, evacuation exercises were held four or five times a month by some of the units stationed in Khaskovo. The men taking part in these exercises would leave the city in full field uniform and return the same day or the following morning. Evacuation exercises were held both during the day and at night.
10. On 20 January 1953, a full-scale evacuation exercise was held, and the Khaskovo Divisional Staff took part in it. The alert was given at approximately 9:00 a.m. and barracks and storage areas were emptied and all personnel and files were ready for evacuation in less than one hour. The units were evacuated from Khaskovo during this exercise and returned to their quarters on the afternoon of the same day.

Construction of Air Raid Shelters in Khaskovo

11. In 1951, construction started on underground air raid shelters for the Khaskovo population. This work was completed in the autumn of 1952. These shelters consist of two tunnels excavated under a hill in the southeastern side of town, between the highway to Kurdzhali and the road to Bolyarovo. The tunnels are protected by at least 20 meters of earth overhead. This earth is composed chiefly of sandstone and clay. The sides of the tunnels are lined with concrete blocks.
12. Each tunnel has a single entrance with a large wooden door. A few feet in front of each entrance there is a large reinforced concrete wall, with a small opening in it. These walls are intended to protect the tunnel entrances against nearby bomb explosions. Electricity has been installed in the tunnels.

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Airfields in the Khaskovo Area	DATE DISTR.	20 April 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	4	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

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Malevo Airfield

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1. Malevo military airfield (N 41-51, E 25-36), Khaskovo okoliya, is located opposite the Malevo railroad station, and consists of a flat, unfenced area having no hard surface runways, and no hangars. The field is serviced by approximately six Air Force noncommissioned officers. In the autumn of 1952, approximately six small biplanes parked at the field.
2. Four small brick buildings which are used as barracks are located at Malevo airfield. The field is illuminated at night by approximately six strong lights which are mounted on posts. (A sketch showing the location of Malevo airfield is included as Appendix A, on page 3).⁴

New Airfield near Khaskovo

3. The new airfield in the Khaskovo area is located at N 41-48, E 25-35, approximately three kilometers north of the fork formed by the Khaskovo-Dimitrovgrad and the Khaskovo-Plovdiv roads, and approximately 500 meters east of the Dimitrovgrad highway. The field occupies the entire plain east of the highway.
4. Construction work at the field was started in the spring of 1952 and is continuing at a rapid pace. Both Trudovaks and civilians are employed on this project.

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The field's landing strip, which runs northwest-southeast, is made of concrete. Stone for the concrete was obtained from a quarry at the north end of the field. It has been reported that the entire field will be paved with concrete.

5. As of 25 January 1953, no buildings had been erected and no planes had landed on this field. The area around the field has been declared a restricted zone.

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6. The following legend refers to a sketch showing the location of the new airfield and other military installations in the Khaskovo area and is included as Appendix B, on page 4:

1. Khaskovo railroad station
2. Barracks of Podelenie 55-430
3. Barracks of Podelenie 55-440
4. Barracks of Heavy Artillery Regiment
5. Underground Gasoline Depots
6. Warehouse of QM Unit, Podelenie 55-410
7. Railroad station (not drawn to scale)
8. Ammunition Dump for Military Units in the Khaskovo Area
9. Approximate location of new military airfield
10. Air raid shelters
11. Fodder Warehouses for Podelenie 55-510

Forest

River

Path

Road

Bridge

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Comments:

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2. This "new" airfield in the Khaskovo area has been previously referred to as the Uzundzhovo airfield

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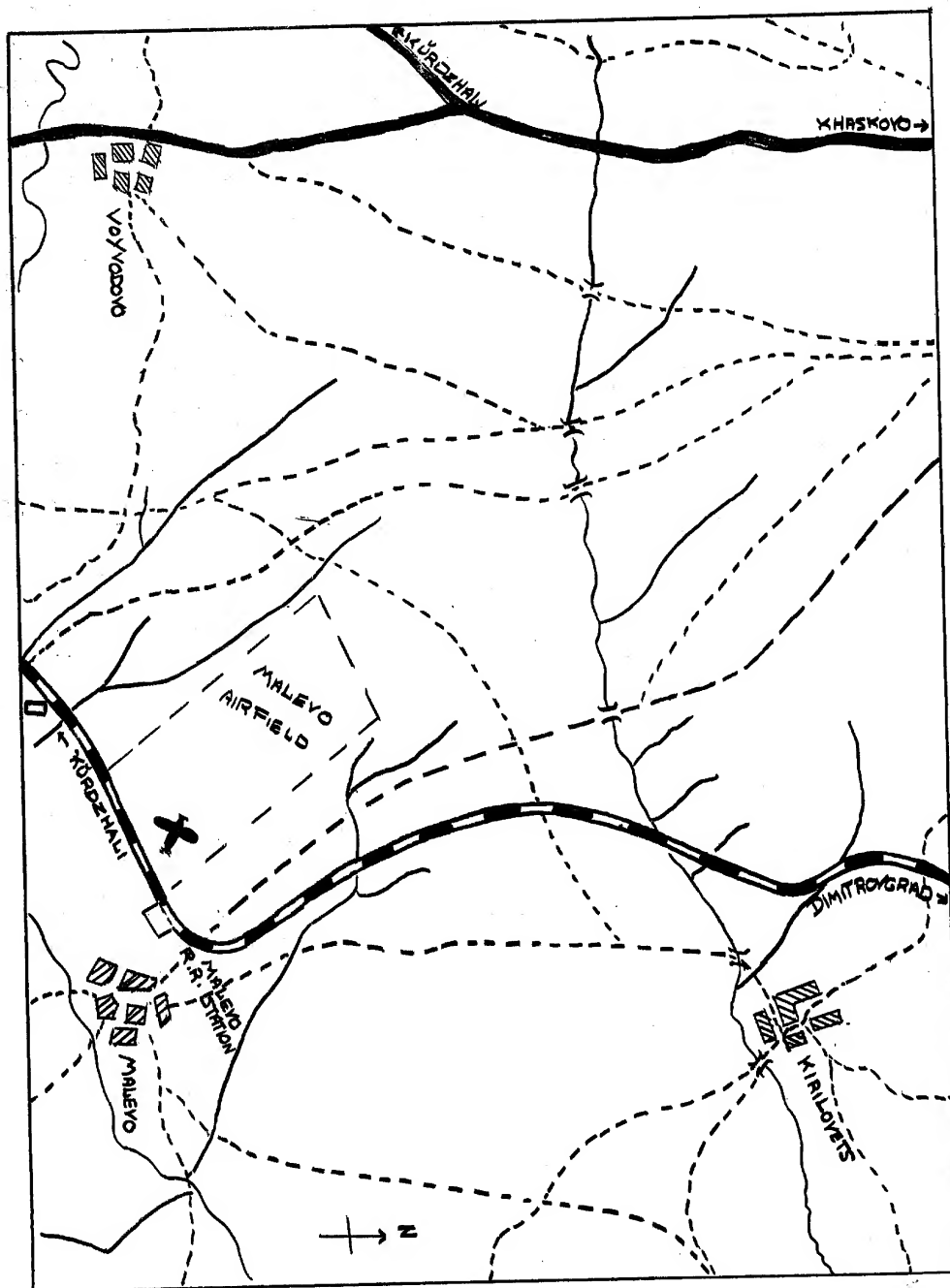
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APPENDIX A

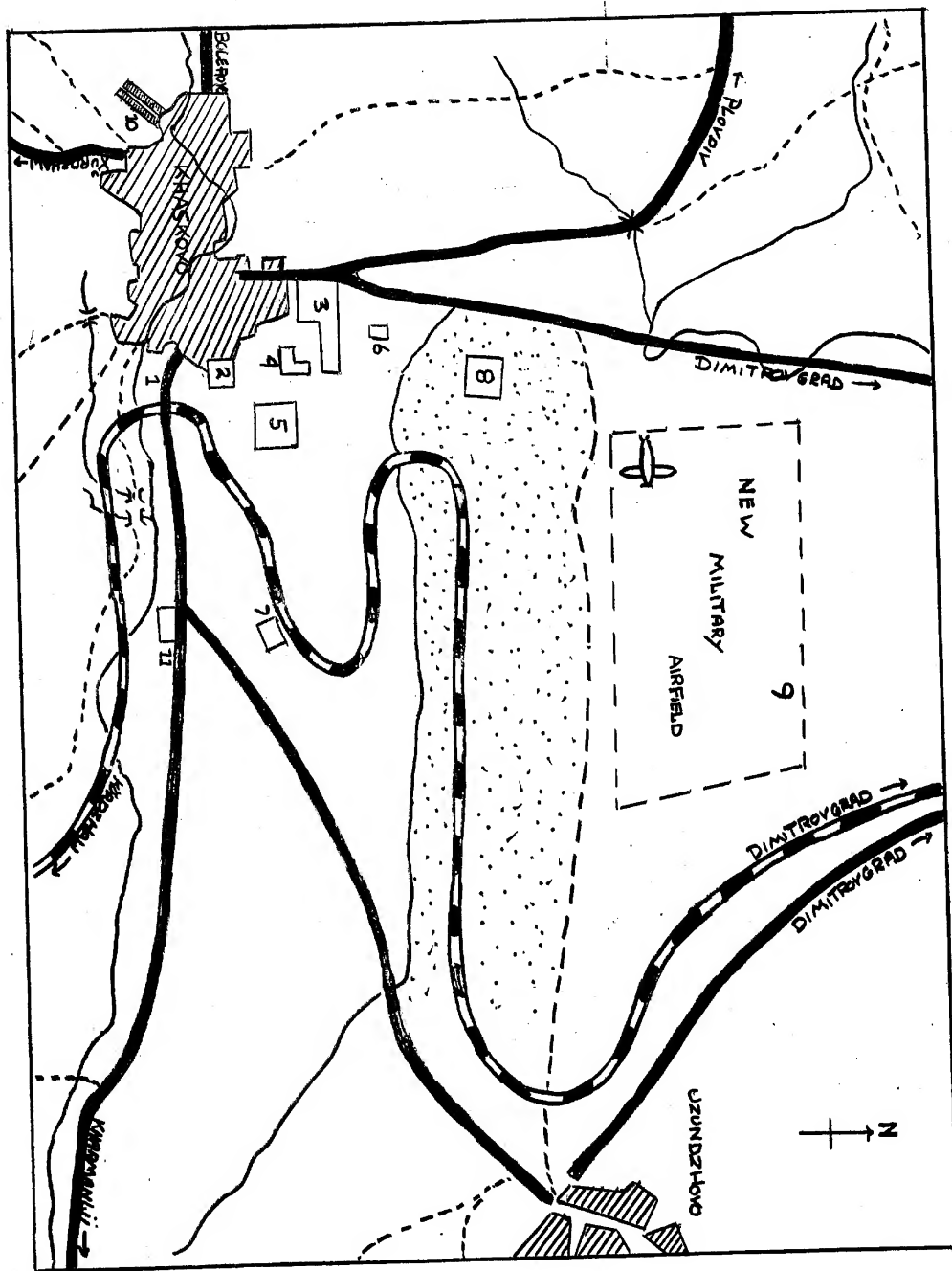


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APPENDIX B



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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Bulgarian Order of Battle: Military Units in the Khaskovo Area	DATE DISTR.	15 June 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	7	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

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(FOR KEY, SEE REVERSE)

25X11. The camp known as the "Second Army Artillery Barracks" is located in the northern section of Khaskovo on the eastern side of the Plovdiv highway. A sign at the main gate to the barracks is inscribed "Podelenie 55-440." The following Army units are quartered at these barracks:

- a. Divisional artillery regiment (Podelenie unknown);
- b. Howitzer artillery regiment (Podelenie unknown);
- c. Antiaircraft artillery unit (Podelenie unknown); and
- d. Communications unit (Podelenie unknown).

2. The divisional artillery regiment was transferred to Khaskovo from Plovdiv in September 1949, when the Second Army Artillery Regiment was transferred from Khaskovo to Plovdiv. It is believed that the divisional artillery regiment is the former Third Divisional Artillery Regiment which was said to have disbanded after the end of hostilities in 1946. The divisional artillery regiment has a strength of approximately 500; it also has approximately 300 horses and approximately 16 light field artillery pieces.
3. The howitzer artillery regiment was transferred to Khaskovo during September 1949. The regiment's original location and present strength are not known.
4. The antiaircraft artillery unit mentioned above was formed in Khaskovo during 1945. It has a strength of approximately 100 men and is equipped with approximately 10 light,

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horse-drawn antiaircraft artillery pieces. The guns are mounted on small pneumatic wheels and have barrels approximately 2.5 meters long. The caliber is not known.

5. No information is available on the communications unit mentioned above.
6. A heavy artillery regiment (Podelenie unknown) is stationed in Khaskovo. Regiment personnel are quartered in a 3-story building, 40 x 20 meters, which was completed during October or November 1952. The building is located approximately 300 meters east of the former "Second Army Artillery Regiment Barracks." The regimental staff and 500 men of the regiment are billeted in this building. Regimental personnel wear dark green uniforms, dark green caps, and epaulets with black piping. The trousers have yellow bands down the sides. The local population refers to these troops as "Tankisti." The regiment is equipped with approximately 20 self-propelled artillery pieces (probably type SU-100). It also has from 50 to 60 trucks of unknown size and make. A high percentage of the personnel in the regiment are armed with Tommy guns. Approximately 60 meters north of the above-mentioned barracks area is a large repair shop for heavy artillery pieces. The building is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide; it is open on the western side.
7. The first of the heavy artillery regiment's parking areas is located approximately 100 meters north of the repair shop. There are four such areas located in a line from North to south.
8. Another 3-story building, 40 x 20 meters, is located approximately 40 meters west of the heavy artillery regiment barracks. The building was completed two or three years ago. An unidentified unit with an approximate strength of 200 men is quartered in this building. The unit wears brown Army uniforms.
9. An unidentified Army unit is quartered in a new 3-story building which was completed in the camp area (shown in the sketch on page 7) during 1951. The building is approximately 40 meters long by 20 meters wide. In the camp area there is also a non-commissioned officer school. It is not known whether the school is an independent unit or whether it is attached to one of the other units in the camp area.
10. A sketch of the camp area showing the following installations is included on page 7 :
 1. Billets of the AAA unit and of a communications unit
 2. Divisional artillery regiment billets
 3. Howitzer artillery regiment billets
 4. Storage and parking areas
 5. Arms and repair shop
 6. New building (completed during 1951)
 7. Guardhouse
 8. Infirmary
 9. Lavatory and laundry
 10. Workshops
 11. Heavy artillery regiment billets
 12. Billets of unidentified unit
 13. Repair shop
 14. Warehouse
 15. Parking area for heavy artillery pieces and trucks
 16. Ravine
 17. Plovdiv highway
 18. Dimitrovgrad highway

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Rifle Division in Khaskovo

11. Headquarters of Rifle Division Podelenie 55-510, formerly 8 Tundzhenska Division, is located in the old Khaskovo gymnasium for boys southeast of the city park and approximately 600 meters west of the center of Khaskovo. The gymnasium is a 1-story building, with three wings perpendicular to its main section, which is approximately 50 meters long.
12. The commanding officer of the division is Lieutenant Colonel Milkov(sic) who recently returned to Bulgaria from the USSR where he took a special course the type of which is not known.
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
13. The staff headquarters of the division was separated from division headquarters during December 1952, and is now located in a 3-story building on the southern side of the main square in Khaskovo opposite the memorial to the unknown soldier. The divisional staff headquarters contains the division's administration, communications, supply, and pay offices. A military intelligence unit is also attached to this section. The following officers serve at divisional staff headquarters of Podelenie 55-510 in Khaskovo:
- 25X1 a. Major Mitev, Commanding Officer [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 b. Major Malamov [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 c. Captain Filchev, Quartermaster [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 d. Captain Manov [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
- 25X1 e. Lieutenant Todorov [REDACTED]
- 25X1 [REDACTED]
14. The divisional quartermaster unit is located approximately 300 meters north of the former Second Army Barracks; it has the following storage areas:
- a. Divisional gasoline dump;
- b. Divisional fodder warehouse; and
- c. Divisional clothing warehouse.
15. The divisional gasoline dump is located at N 41-55, E 25-34, approximately 500 meters north of the Khaskovo railroad station and approximately 750 meters east of the Plovdiv-Dimitrovgrad highway. The dump is underground and consists of an area 500 meters square which is encircled by barbed wire. The various units at Khaskovo provide guards for three permanent guard posts at this dump.
16. The Khaskovo divisional fodder warehouses are located approximately two kilometers from Khaskovo, at the fork formed by the roads from Khaskovo to Kharmanli and Uzundzhovo. The warehouse area is approximately 120 meters long and 100 meters wide. The side bordering the road is inclosed by a brick wall one and one-half meters high. The other three sides are inclosed by a barbed-wire fence. In the area there are approximately nine 1-story buildings with tile roofs. The warehouse contains wheat, oats, and corn flour used as cattle fodder, as well as large quantities of wheat flour, cereals, macaroni, and salt for human consumption.

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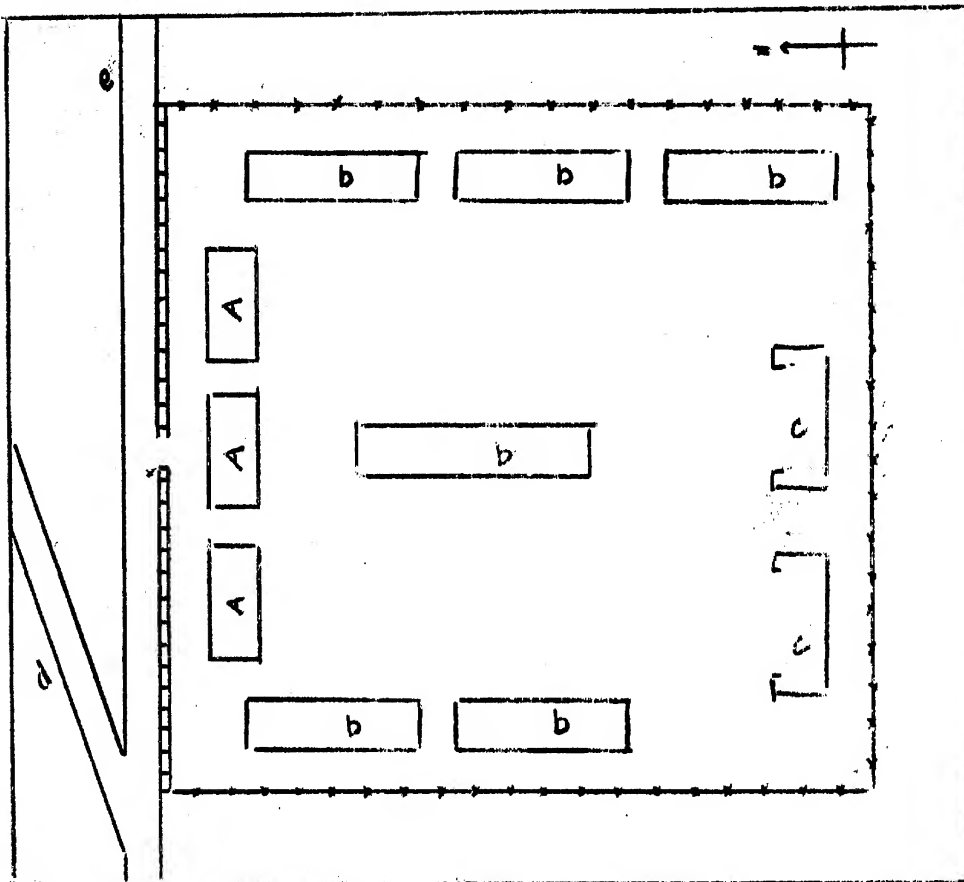
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A sketch of the divisional fodder warehouses showing the following installations is included below:

- a. Hay and straw storage;
- b. Storage for grain feeds;
- c. Lumber storage sheds;
- d. Khaskovo-Uzundzhovo road; and
- e. Khaskovo-Kharmanliy road.

A guard post is located at the main entrance of the warehouse enclosure on the road to Kharmanliy.



Scale 1: 1,000

17. The divisional clothing warehouse is a 3-story building, 40 x 20 meters, located at N 41-56, E 25-33, approximately 300 meters north of the old Second Army Artillery Regiment Barracks, and approximately 300 meters east of the Dimitrovgrad road. The following items are among those carried in this warehouse: uniforms, shoes, tarpaulins, tents, soldiers' ammunition belts, cartridge belts, and leather thongs.

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5.

18. Infantry Regiment, Podelenie 55-430, is subordinate to Rifle Division, Podelenie 55-510. The regiment arrived in Khaskovo in 1945 and is probably the old 23 Infantry Regiment from Kazanluk. It is quartered at the camp of the old 10 Infantry Regiment on the eastern side of the city square southeast of the Second Army Artillery Regiment barracks. Two new barracks, three stories high, were added to the camp during 1949 and 1952. The regiment has a strength of approximately 1500 men.
19. Infantry Regiment, Podelenie 55-430 is equipped with M-1941 Tommy guns and M-1944 rifles. Over 50 per cent of the men are armed with Tommy guns, model 1941 or model 1943. The remainder of the men are armed with M-1944 rifles. In addition, each platoon is equipped with five to six DPM light machine guns and with two "Panzerfaust" (bazookas). The regiment has one heavy machine gun company equipped with approximately 30 Maxim M-1910 machine guns on both Sokolov and M-1931 dual-purpose mounts. The following units are also attached to the regiment:
- a. A mortar company, each platoon equipped with four mortars; there are approximately twenty 82mm M-1943 (sic) mortars in storage at the camp;
 - b. An antitank company, equipped with approximately ten DT antitank machine guns;
 - c. One battery of field artillery, equipment consists of four field artillery pieces of unidentified type and caliber;
 - d. A non-commissioned officer training course attended by approximately 100 men; and
 - e. A bakery company consisting of approximately 60 men; personnel are subject to regular military training but are employed on one of the three daily shifts at the Khaskovo divisional bakery located in the camp area.
20. There are four large warehouses located in the regiment's camp area:
- a. A 1-story building, 20 x 10 meters; contains heavy machine guns, light machine guns, rifles, and Tommy guns; total number of arms in warehouse was estimated to be over 3000;
 - b. A 1-story building, 30 x 10 meters; contains Panzerfausts (bazookas), land mines, gas masks, new uniforms and shoes; and
 - c. Two large 1-story warehouses, approximately 20 x 20 meters; contain mostly crates with various caliber ammunition, shells, and hand grenades.
- In addition to the above, each company of the regiment has an arms and ammunition room near its area.

21. In January 1953 the following officers were serving in Podelenie 55-430:

- 25X1 a. Senior Lieutenant Petrov Venkov, regimental QM officer [redacted]
[redacted]
- 25X1 b. Lieutenant Atanas Karaivanov, supply officer [redacted]
[redacted]
- 25X1 c. Captain Demerdzhiev, regiment supply officer [redacted]
[redacted]
- 25X1 d. Captain Ivanov, probably assistant to the regimental supply officer [redacted]
[redacted]
- 25X1 e. Captain Rusenov, veterinarian [redacted]
[redacted]

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6.

22. Reserve officers, ranking from infantry majors to lieutenants, from the classes of 1907 to 1929, were recalled for 30-day tours of duty during the months of August, October, and December 1952. Approximately 150 officers were trained during each of the 30-day tours. They received basic military drill and training with new Soviet weapons. The reserve officers were furnished new uniforms at the beginning of training; at the completion of the tour, the uniforms were labelled with the officers' names and were stored for future use. During 1952, on two occasions, mladzhi serzhanti (junior sergeants), serzhanti (sergeants) and starshini (master sergeants) were recalled for temporary training: for the first time during the month of June, and for the second toward the end of July. Their training also lasted approximately 30 days and did not differ from that of the officers. The men recalled were from various undetermined nabors (classes of recruits) and all had served previously in infantry regiments. Each shift consisted of approximately 150 men.

Miscellaneous

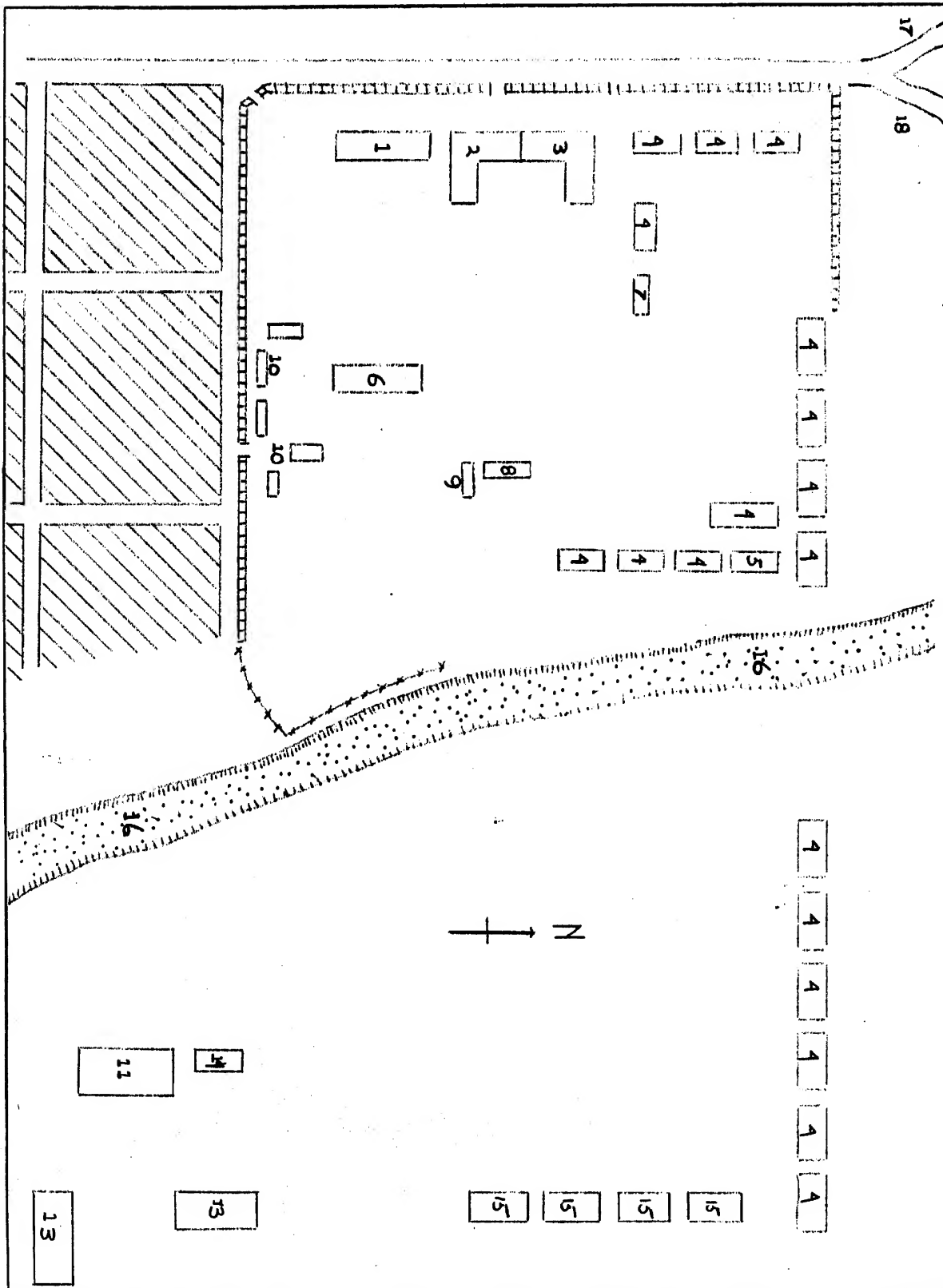
23. The ammunition dump of the Khaskovo garrison is located at N 41-57, E 25-34, approximately two kilometers north of the barracks of the Second Army Artillery Regiment and approximately 200 meters east of the Khaskovo-Dimitrovgrad highway. The dump is situated in a thickly-wooded area and cannot be seen from the highway. The dump is guarded by approximately 10 men who belong to various units in Khaskovo.
24. An Interior Troops unit, Podelenie unknown, is quartered in a 3-story building, approximately 50 x 15 meters, located west of the Plovdiv highway, next to the Khaskovo local prison. The unit has approximately 150 men most of whom are armed with Tommy guns.
25. During December 1952, men of approximately the 1922 to 1927 classes were called for medical examinations by Army commissions throughout Bulgaria.
26. Approximately 70 young men belonging to the 1934 and 1935 classes were to be examined at Studena, Svilengrad Okoliya, on 17 February 1953.

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	The Pirin Russian Model Farm Near Khaskovo	DATE DISTR.	7 May 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	1	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

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1. The Pirin Russian Model Farm is located approximately three kilometers north of Khaskovo (N 41-55, E 25-32), and 100 meters west of the highway to Dimitrovgrad (N 42-03, E 25-36).
2. All of the administrative personnel of the farm are Soviets, and the other employees are Bulgarians hired from the Khaskovo area.
3. Large sections of the farm are used for raising fowl, sheep, and pigs. Large quantities of the farm's products, mainly eggs and poultry, are sold on the Khaskovo market. It is believed that all products not sold on this market are exported to the USSR.
4. An unknown number of modern buildings have been constructed on the farm.

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COUNTRY	Bulgaria	REPORT NO.		25X1
SUBJECT	Sketch of the Prison and Ministry of Interior Troops' Barracks in Khaskovo	DATE DISTR.	8 June 1953	
	25X1	NO. OF PAGES	2	
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.		25X1
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES		

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25X1 Following is the key to sketch of the Khaskovo local prison and the Ministry of Interior troops' barracks which is contained on page 2 of this report:

1. Cells
2. Dungeon
3. Latrines
4. Shoemaker
5. Laundry
6. Kitchen
7. Yard
8. Front Yard
9. Hall
10. Guard Quarters
11. Not known
12. Meeting room and sleeping quarters for wardens
13. Chief Warden's Office
14. Prison Directorate:
 - a. Corridor
 - b. Director's Office
 - c. Cashier-Accountant's Office
 - d. Archives
15. Interior Troops' Barracks
16. Built-up Area

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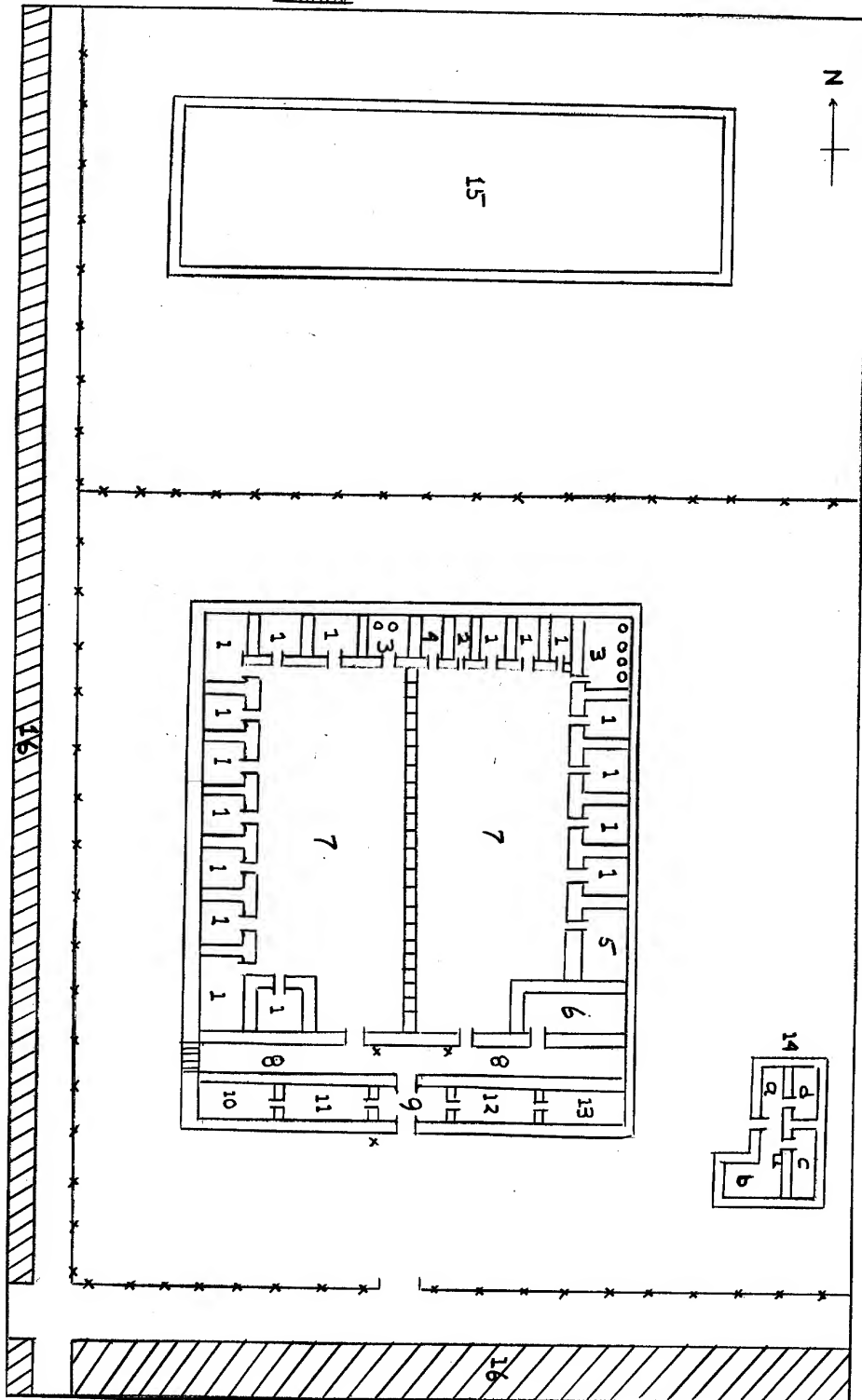
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Barbed Wire Fence ---x---
 Post x
 Stone Wall 



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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Procedure for Obtaining a
New Identity Card

25X1

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

REPORT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE DISTR. 30 April 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. [REDACTED] 25X1

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- 25X1. New identity cards are issued by the Ministry of Interior obshtina office. The following steps are necessary to procure a new identity card in Studena Obshtina:
- A birth certificate, a certificate of residence, and a certificate of marital status must be obtained from the town or village council;
 - Three photographs must be obtained from a state photographer;
 - An Anketna Karta (Investigation Card)¹ must be obtained from the Ministry of Interior obshtina office; and
 - All of the above documents and photographs are left in a special folder at the Ministry of Interior obshtina office for processing.
- If an applicant does not have a birth certificate, he may apply for a substitute certificate at his town or village council. The certificate costs 8.6 leva. The Certificate of Residence may be obtained from the applicant's town or village council. It is issued in triplicate and costs .2 leva per sheet. The Certificate of Marital Status is issued free of charge by the town or village council.
 - The photographs prepared by the state photographer were 1.5 x 1.25 inches and were made on light smooth paper. All pictures are taken in a three-quarter view with a light background. The lower right hand corner of the photograph is left blank. The three photographs cost four leva and require about one week for processing.

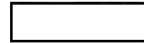
SECRET

STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					
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SECRET

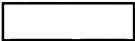
-2-

25X1



4. The Anketna Karta is issued by the Militia section of the Ministry of Interior obshtina office. The back of the card is filled in by a Militia official.
5. A folder costs .2 leva and may be obtained near the Ministry of Interior office in Studena. There are two types of folders: a blue one with the word "Prepiska" (File) written on it, and a yellow one with the word "Dyalo" written on it.

25X1



Comment: This is a card kept in the Militia files showing what security checks have been made on an individual.

SECRET